

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

Thank you for your efforts to enact the most comprehensive health reform in over forty years. The House Tri-Committee bill will ensure quality of care, reform our health insurance system, cover millions of uninsured Americans, and contain costs. We are proud of the work the House has done under your strong leadership.

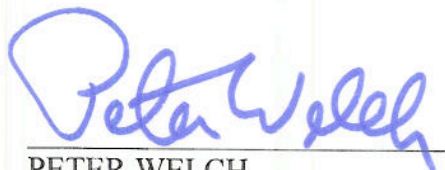
We strongly believe that the federal government should use its purchasing power to lower the cost of prescription drugs for senior citizens as well as taxpayers. Any health care legislation signed into law should give authority for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with drug companies to lower drug prices within the Medicare Part D program. This requirement was included in HR 3200 during the Energy and Commerce Committee markup in July.

In 2008, an Oversight and Government Reform Committee report found that Medicare Part D insurers pay significantly higher prices for prescription drugs than the Medicaid program. It found that, if Medicare negotiated directly with drug manufacturers and obtained prices equivalent to the Medicaid prices for all Medicare beneficiaries, the potential savings to taxpayers would be \$156 billion.

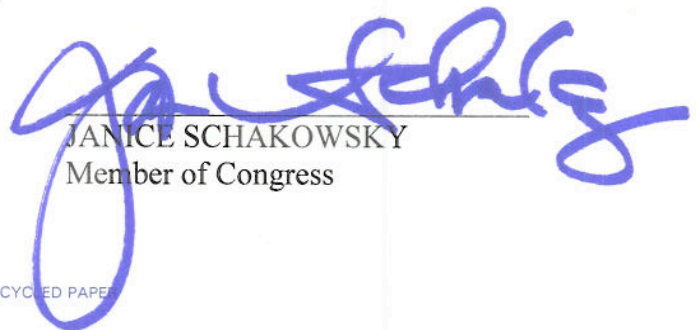
As you know, legislation to require drug price negotiation in the Medicare Part D program passed the House in 2007 by a vote of 255-170 with strong bipartisan support and 198 cosponsors. It was supported by AARP, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Consumers Union, the American Nurses Association, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, the American Medical Association, National Community Pharmacists Association, and many other organizations.

Requiring the Secretary to negotiate drug prices under Medicare Part D will contain program costs at a time when health care spending is growing at an unsustainable rate. We urge you to continue the fight to lower drug costs for America's seniors by preserving this important provision in HR 3200.

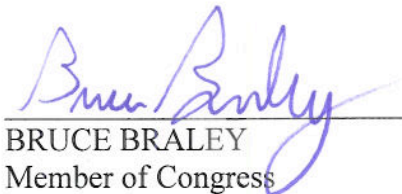
Sincerely,

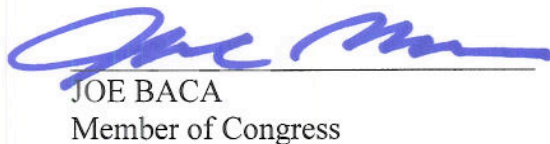


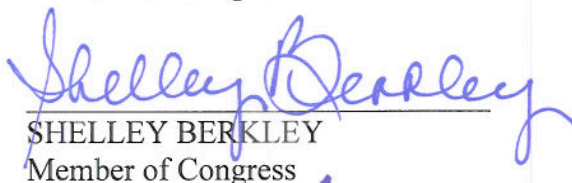
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Member of Congress

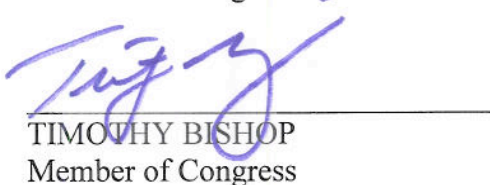


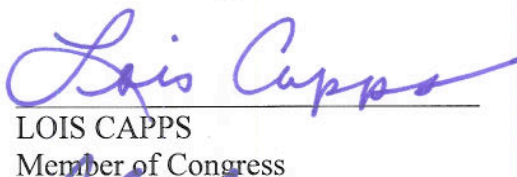
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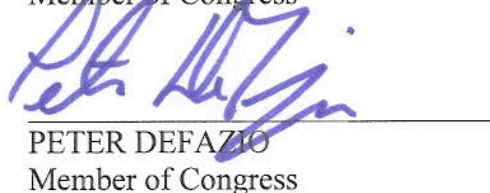

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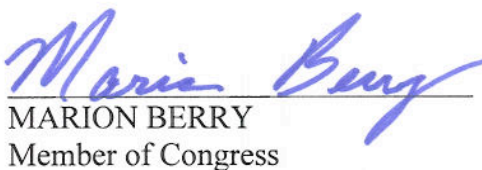

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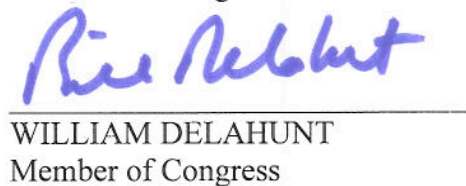

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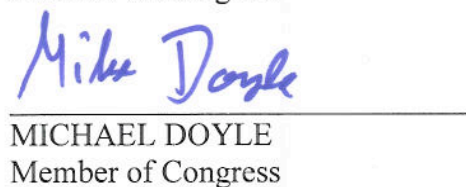

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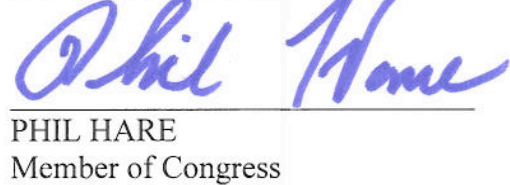

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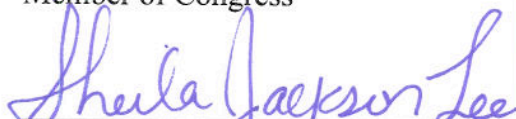

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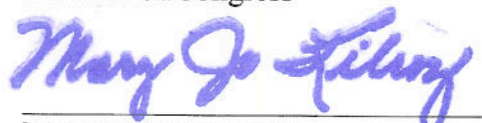

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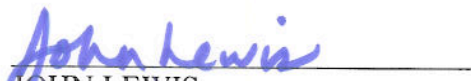

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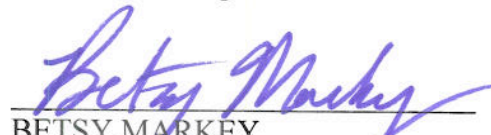

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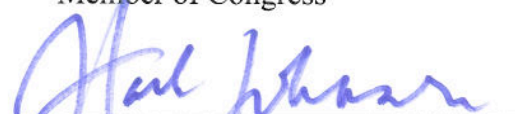

BETSY MARKEY
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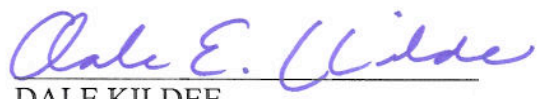

BETTY MCCOLLUM
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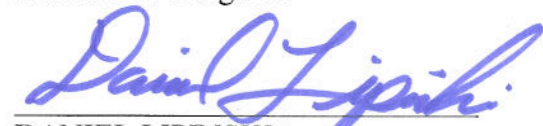

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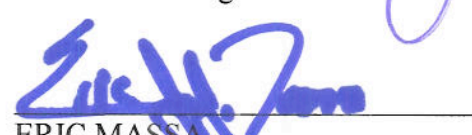

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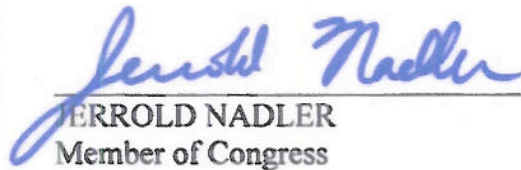

DANIEL LIPINSKI
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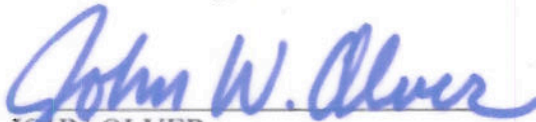

CAROLYN MALONEY
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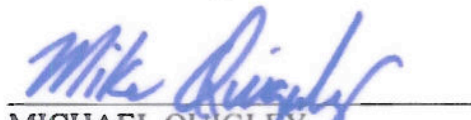

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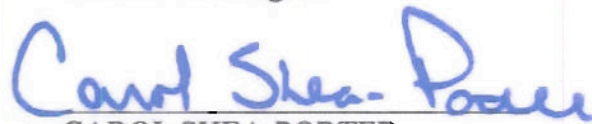

MICHAEL MICHAUD
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Member of Congress

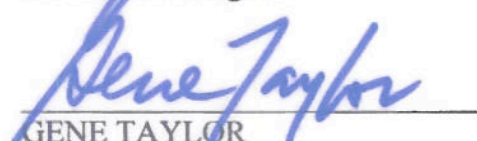

JOHN OLVER
Member of Congress

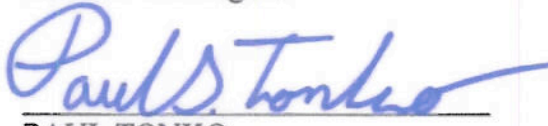

MICHAEL QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

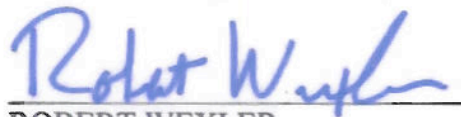

JOHN SARBANES
Member of Congress

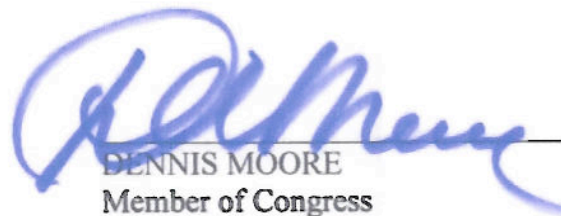

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
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BART STUPAK
Member of Congress


GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress


PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress


ROBERT WEXLER
Member of Congress

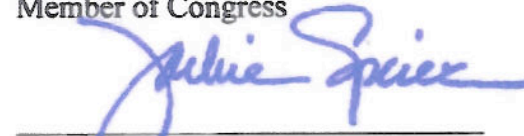

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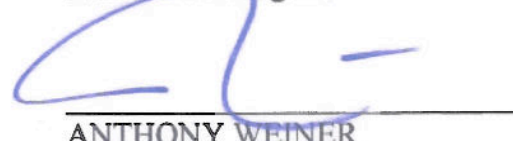

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TIM RYAN
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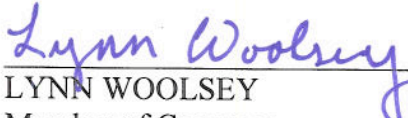

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BETTY SUTTON
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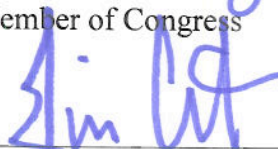

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CHARLES WILSON
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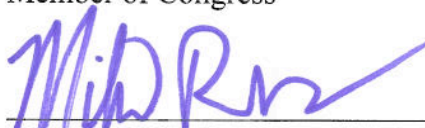

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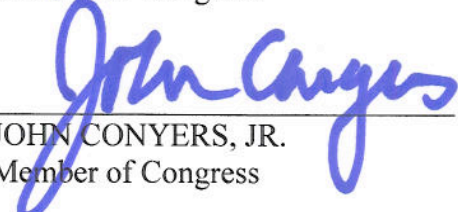

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